

Contact: Jamie Manson or Martha Gellens 718.549.3200 x320 / x232 or
pressroom@wavehill.org

GARDENER'S PARTY CELEBRATES CHAMPIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Bronx, NY (September 4, 2007) – Wave Hill, a 28-acre public garden and cultural center, will host its annual Gardeners' Party benefit on Thursday, **September 20, 2007, at 6:00pm**. The evening offers garden enthusiasts the opportunity to purchase signature Wave Hill plants and participate in live and silent auctions of other premium plants and garden ornaments. Guests enjoy a sunset cocktail reception on the Great Lawn overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, followed by supper under a tent on the Lower Lawn in the midst of Wave Hill's peak, late-summer splendor. The Gardeners' Party is sponsored by Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc. Proceeds from the benefit provide funds needed to maintain Wave Hill's horticulture collections and landscape.

This year, Wave Hill honors Mary and Howdy Phipps, whose leadership and support of many public gardens and cultural institutions have provided joy and natural beauty to millions of New Yorkers. For more than half a century, Mr. Phipps has been a champion of the environment, most significantly through his inspired chairmanship and decades of stewardship of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Mrs. Phipps's longtime leadership of Old Westbury Gardens and her involvement with the Girl Scouts Council of Greater New York have brought outstanding contributions to community life in the metropolitan area. Together, these longtime friends of Wave Hill have demonstrated an unwavering devotion to safeguarding the beauty of the natural world.

The Phipps will also contribute to this year's auction through their donation of the only named hybrid Rhododendron to be released from the breeding program at the Phipps Estate on Long Island. The specimen is the fruit of their twenty-five year quest for superb, hardy yellow flowers on a compact shrub. In addition to other special, rare or hard-to-find plants, auction highlights include a trio of classic Impruneta pots from Siebert & Rice, importer of the finest Italian terra-cotta, filled with succulents and other gems from Loomis Creek Nursery. A pair of Munstead limestone urns will also

be offered from Longshadow, purveyors of fine garden ornaments, while Munder-Skiles will offer a black iron Chippendale-style bench. Passionate gardeners can also bid on the opportunity to be captured on film in their own beloved cultivated space by photographer Richard Felber, whose work appears in *Martha Stewart Living, House & Garden* and *Garden Design*.

This annual event is hosted by Wave Hill's Friends of Horticulture Committee, a group of ardent gardeners and Wave Hill supporters.

2007 Wave Hill Gardeners' Party

Date: Thursday, September 20, 2007
Place: Wave Hill
 West 249th Street and Independence Avenue
 Bronx, New York
Time: 6:00pm Cocktails and Plant Sale on Great Lawn
 7:00pm Country Supper and Silent and Auctions on Lower Lawn

Benefactor Table: \$2,500 for ten tickets

Benefactor Tickets: \$1,000 for two

Individual Tickets: \$200

Dress: Informal attire

Contact: Stephanie Ehrlich at 718.549.3200 x310

Proceeds provide vital support for Wave Hill's horticulture programs.

Wave Hill is a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. Its mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

Wave Hill is operated by an independent, non-profit cultural organization. Its buildings and grounds are owned by the City of New York. With assistance from Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature and the Bronx Borough President, Wave Hill's operation is supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Foundations, corporations, and individuals contribute vital additional support.

####